

# Acknowledgements

## National Task Force on Interoperability Membership

The National Task Force on Interoperability (NTFI), a task force comprising members from 18 national associations, State and local elected and appointed officials, and public safety officials, met several times in 2002 to engage in an interactive dialogue on communications interoperability. The discussions provided an opportunity for public policymakers to partner their efforts with those of the public safety community to address interoperability issues in a more comprehensive way. Through this dialogue, NTFI developed this guide for public officials to raise awareness about the importance of interoperability, to provide the basic information that is necessary to understand the impact of this issue on their constituencies, and to provide guidance about the initial steps to take in developing interoperable public safety radio communication systems. It is hoped that this guide will serve as a catalyst for public officials to begin other, continuing dialogues with public officials in their localities, regions, and States to develop collaborative solutions.

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*"The task force brings local and State elected and appointed officials together with representatives of the public safety community to develop national strategies for solving this critical public safety need."*

*Harlin McEwen, Chair, International Association of Chiefs of Police Communications Committee Communications Advisor, MCC, NSA, MCSA*



*"We are working to get beyond the technical jargon to develop a commonsense language that the average person can understand. Quite simply, our task is to find ways to achieve real-time communication between different communities, jurisdictions, and responders so we can save more lives in a crisis."*

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# Interoperability

*Why Can't We Talk? Working Together To Bridge the Communications Gap To Save Lives*, its Supplemental Resources, and its companion brochure, *When They Can't Talk, Lives Are Lost*, are a collaborative effort of the following major associations for local and State elected and appointed officials and public safety officers.

For more information and to obtain a copy of the guide, brochure or supplemental resources, please visit [www.nijcommtech.org](http://www.nijcommtech.org)



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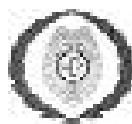
**NACo** National Association of Counties



**ICMA**



**NASTA**



**NASCIO**  
Representing Chief Information Officers of the States

